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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/562,398	12/27/2005	Yuji Yokota	IS-US040686	8448
22919 7590 04/30/2007 GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP 1233 20TH STREET, NW, SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036-2680			EXAMINER PARADISO, JOHN ROGER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3721	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/30/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/562,398

Applicant(s)

YOKOTA ET AL.

Examiner

John R. Paradiso

Art Unit

3721

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Restart of Time Period

1. The Office Action mailed 6/16/2006 included a rejection of the original claims, rather than the claims filed 12/27/2005 as a Preliminary Amendment. The following Office Action is directed to the present claims, as filed with the Preliminary Amendment.
2. This Action supercedes the previous Office Action and the Time Period for Response is restarted as of the mailing date of this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4, 6-14, and 17-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Hirata (5-34107).

Hirata discloses a packaging bag supply device that supplies packaging bags to a packaging bag discharge position one by one comprising transportation means (Fig. 1; via stocker 8) that transports a plurality of stacked packaging bags from a mounting position to the

Art Unit: 3721

discharge position (Fig. 1; via the curved part of stocker 8); horizontal support means (Figs. 1 and 3; via belt 1) that supports the plurality of stacked packaging bags (a) such that an uppermost surface of an uppermost packaging bag is retained in a horizontal posture at the discharge position (via at belt 1); and a control means that controls the horizontal support means such that the uppermost surface of the uppermost packaging bag is supported in the horizontal posture (Figs. 1 and 39 via the driven rollers that rotate conveyor belt 1). The horizontal support means supports a rear portion of the packaging bags at the discharge position (Figs. 1 and 3) and includes a support roller (via that roller drives the conveying belt 1). Hirata discloses a first bag presence sensor (Fig. 1; via 16b).

Regarding claim 1, lines 14-15 (beginning with the word “even”) indicate the particular use of the machine. Examiner notes it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations.

Claim 25 lines 4-6 and claim 26 lines 4-5 (beginning in each with the phrase “is configured to”), indicate the particular use of the machine. Examiner notes it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 5, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Hirata (5-34107).

Hirata discloses a packaging bag supply device, as described above.

Hirata does not specifically disclose the interval between the support rollers as being adjustable.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the interval between the support rollers as adjustable in order to provide varying tension on the belt or to provide for different transport location, since it has been held that the provision of adjustability, where needed, involves only routine skill in the art.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Paradiso. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday, 9:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (ET).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada, can be reached at the number listed below.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the 3700 Technology Center Receptionist.

Application/Control Number: 10/562,398

Page 5

Art Unit: 3721

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Paradiso', is written over a horizontal line.

Examiner John Paradiso: (571) 272-4466

April 2, 2007

Additional Phone Numbers:

Supervisor Rinaldi Rada: (571) 308-7135

Fax (Official): (571) 273-8300

Fax (Direct to Examiner) (571) 273-4466 (Drafts only)